

MICHAEL J. ROTKO
(September 23, 2023)



Rotko Michael J. Age 85, of Unionville, PA, passed peacefully on September 23, 2023. Michael was born in the Frankford section of Philadelphia in 1938 to Dr. Bernard and Bessie Rotko. He attended Central High School, graduating in 1955. He went on to the University of Michigan where he majored in English, studied poetry, and played football for two years. He continued on to University of Pennsylvania Law School graduating in 1963. After working with famed defense attorney, Donald Goldberg, he began his career as a prosecutor at the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office, ultimately serving as Chief Deputy District Attorney under Arlen Specter. He subsequently established his own Law firm, Rotko & Creskoff, where he specialized in matrimonial and commercial litigation. In 1990, he returned to public service at the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania initially serving as First Assistant United States Attorney and then Acting United States Attorney in 1992. He returned to private practice as a partner at Drinker, Biddle & Reath. He later served as Special Counsel to the United States Senate where he was helped investigate the causes of Gulf War Syndrome. Michael led an extraordinary life. He had a brilliant mind, great wit, and was exceedingly generous to his family, neighbors, those in need, and local institutions. He was an active volunteer and supporter of University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he served as a member of the Board of Overseers and received the Alumni Award of Merit. His most beloved place on earth was his farm Westview where he lived for over 35 years. He loved reading, his horses and dogs, and most especially his family. A devout Eagles and Phillies fan, he never forgot his Philadelphia sport roots. He is survived by his beloved wife, Meredith Graves Rotko, and his 4 children Thomas Rotko (Lauren), William Rotko (Carol), Hannah Rotko Caputo (Louis), and Daniel Rotko (Clara), as well as 2 stepchildren, Sarah Scoville (Avery), and Will Graves (Jazmine). Michael is also survived by 6 grandchildren, Benjamin, Ethan, Sasha, Milana, Emma, and Lilianna, and 2 step-grandchildren, Talon and Zinnia. He is also survived by his sister, Judi Shipon, and his first wife, Ruth Charny. He is predeceased by his second wife, Denise A. Rotko. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Brandywine Conservancy and Museum of Art, the Kennett Square Library, or the Cheshire Hunt and Conservancy.

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